

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press is Democracy's First Line of Defense.

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"Pork-Barrel" Legislation

Emphatic proof of the unfairness and waste of public tax money is shown in the fact that for every \$20 Michigan pays in federal taxes toward the \$731,546,000 Congressional appropriation for rivers and harbors projects this coming year, the Wolymer State gets back only one dollar.

The remainder will be spent by the pork-barrel-minded Congressmen in other States.

That is what happens when centralization of the power to tax is tolerated by the citizens of a nation.

Thus, toward the total \$731,546,000 appropriation Michigan will get back only \$2,327,000 for rivers and harbors projects, or one dollar for every \$20 its citizens pay into the hungry coffers of the federal government.

Perhaps that amount of money is all that Michigan really needs. Indeed, since Congressman George A. Dondero of Royal Oak is a member of House Rivers and Harbors Committee, maybe that sum is all that he felt our state needs. To that end, then, Dondero's attitude of frugality sets a good example for other Congressmen—which, of course, too few of them heed.

You might ask: "Well, why shouldn't Michigan go after more of this money?" The answer to that is that other states would then do the same, thus greatly increasing the total appropriation; and that would only tend to increase the ratio between what Michigan pays and what it gets.

What is the real answer? By electing, from each state, only honest, frugal-minded Congressmen, or at least more of them. That is the job of the people themselves—a job too often neglected by the citizenry in why "pork-barrel" legislation occurs.

U. S. Spending for the Natives

The United States Government, which took over some 90-odd islands groups, making up the Carolines, Marshalls and Mariana islands in the Pacific, is spending about \$7,000,000 annually to take care of the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the 54,000 inhabitants of the islands.

The islanders themselves are credited with paying about five per cent of the expenses out of their local revenues. This looks, at first blush, like a very generous move on the part of the United States, but some representatives of other countries, speaking in the United Nations Trusteeship Council, expressed fear that the beneficence of the United States would render more difficult the territories' progress toward economic autonomy.

Mr. John Fletcher-Cooke, British Deputy, expressed the hope that the United States would not, by continued outpourings of money, pauperize the islanders and give them the idea that life on the dole could be a pleasant and effortless business. This, he thought, would, in the long run, impede any progress toward self-development in the islands and discourage native efforts toward financial independence.

Stop Stray Golf Shots

A wire fence, 15 feet high and 90 feet long, has ended almost a "year of warfare" between a couple in Rye, New York, and the adjoining country club.

It seems the couple lived in a house, with a large expanse of glass, which was peppered frequently with misdirected golf balls.

Vigorous protests by the man and his wife failed to secure relief. The husband adopted archery "as a hobby" and "accidental" fire arrows onto the golf course when players approached his property.

We can easily appreciate the feelings of the man and his wife, practically unable to move about in their own yard without the risk of being hit on the head by a golf ball.

This object, as many of our readers know, is a tough pellet and capable of inflicting considerable injury when misdirected by enthusiastic, but inaccurate, golfers.

Longest Time, Shortest Life

Longest time interval ever measured is 1,500,000,000,000,000,000 years. The scientists have figured this out, so don't ask us to explain how it was done.

However, these scientists tell us that the substance tellurium, which was at one time considered a stable element, is now found to be radioactive, shedding half of its atoms in that many years.

The astonishing fact is that the lifespan of a neutral meson lasts just one-tenth-trillionth of a second.

We'd like to ask the scientists just where three score years and ten fit between these two extremes?

From Our Point of View

Texas is arguing that it is now our fifth State in population, going ahead of Ohio. The Buckeyes produce figures to disprove the Lone Star argument. Regardless of numbers of people, when will States begin to prove their size by the quantity of Happy People they have, rather than mere numbers?

An English churchman argues that it is up to doctors to improve the human breed. His ideas include the notion that doctors will have authority to eliminate the possibility of certain types from reproducing themselves. Does that mean, that society will countenance and use the methods of raising thoroughbred race horses?

Paying on time, in time, for current purchases will decrease under President Truman's request for powers to control credit buying, now that we approach war measures. That will mean a decrease in production of certain peace-time necessities and luxuries; but insofar as sound economy is concerned, it will help achieve that position.

We don't like to cloud the happy summer vacation days of our local school children—which is why we hesitate to inform them that Birmingham schools will open Sept. 5. So, kids, have as much fun as you can... for you're gradually skidding into those years when Old Man Responsibility will settle down on your shoulders, and you'll inherit the nostalgia of "those good old days of childhood."

The current Korean war has taken precedence over political campaign personalities and issues this year. With elections coming up for many high offices, the voices of the candidates are lost in the noise of war.

Unwillingness of other members of the United Nations to send men to help out the United States in the Korean war reveals how weak the United Nations really is. We appear to be living in a decadent civilization, half slave, one third partially fossilized, with only the U. S. A. willing to defend freedom.

The moral and physical value of engaging in various competitive sports can never be measured. From early youth most of us engage in some form of recreational activity that calls for both mental and physical support; the value of this early activity impacts in one way or another, upon the remainder of one's life. All of which merely suggests that better generations can be developed by the taxpayers if they would allocate more of their tax dollars in support of good recreational programs for youth.

So They Say...

Juan D. Peron, President of Argentina: "I am a profound partisan of peace, but not peace at the price of Communism."

Lincoln White, State Department press officer: "Moscow must be scratching the bottom of the barrel for something to use for propaganda."

Winston Churchill, former British Prime Minister: "The Communists pay lip-service to the doctrine of peace but by peace they mean submission to their will and system."

William Green, president, American Federation of Labor: "We know that the big leaders in the Kremlin represent the most reactionary despotism the world has ever known."

Ralph Lee, public relations consultant: "Man's greatest urge is not self-preservation, but conservation of his energy."



Happenings of Long Ago

50 years ago, AUGUST 3, 1900. George Mitchell, 70, died at the home of his sister, Mrs. N. M. Corey on July 28. A resident of Birmingham for many years, he was a native of New York and a carpenter by trade. Mr. Mitchell was well-known and well loved in this community.

A lady visitor has paid our boys a great compliment. She admires the way they protect trees planted near the streets and the care with which they stop to pick up bits of paper thrown about by their careless friends. Thank you.

Lyman Hood was quite severely poisoned with poison ivy last week while cutting brush. Lyman says it was bad enough, but might well have been worse.

If our marshall was only able to get out Saturday nights and attend to the people who do not know a better way to hitch their horses to trees, what a comfort it would be.

By the testing of a new nozzle for the fire hose Tuesday evening last, Maple avenue was thoroughly sprinkled from Saginaw street a distance of several hundred feet west, much to the delight of the merchant on that thoroughfare.

20 years ago, AUGUST 10, 1930. A fire in the middle of 500 lives of bees gave local bee ladies a change of routine Sunday at the D. A. Davies apiculture, Adams and Big Beaver roads. Davis complimented the bees for their excellent work stating that a fire which could have cost him \$10,000 was done in less than \$200 damages.

Eugene Benson, local postal clerk now on vacation, had a near escape from death recently when two young men fired upon his car in an attempt to steal the contents. Benson was replaced by another mailman car which had broken down a short distance away.

Leo A. Donovan, managing editor of the Birmingham Eccentric, died in New York by the sudden death of his father, Clarence Donovan, victim of a heart attack.

Local merchant will turn their shops and stores into bargain counters Friday when a community Dollar Day will be held. The Plans, Inc. has established a day for some time as merchants prepare to make this one of the shopping events of the season.

Mrs. Joseph Allen was honored at a special service Sunday morning in the Methodist church in honor of her 90th birthday. A devoted worker in the church, Mrs. Allen has held membership there for 77 years. Fred Mallender read special tribute to her.

5 years ago, AUGUST 19, 1945. Murray D. Van Wagoner, local chairman of the clothing drive for the University of Michigan, has 55,000 pounds of used clothing being collected here. He has made from the drive a national record that the first shipments have already arrived in Europe.

The city commission, Monday night, authorized City Treasurer Samuel T. Berger, to purchase \$25,000 Treasury notes in the amount of \$30,000. The purchase will be made from the city's regular operating funds.

Allan Johnson and Lawrence Smith were rated as life experts in the small-bore tournament Sunday. Johnson, who has established a name for himself at the university and will offer stiff opposition to opponents this coming season.

From what the fans can learn from summer football practice at the University of Michigan, Harold Watts, veteran Birmingham center, will be the man to watch there this fall. He is establishing a name for himself at the university and will offer stiff opposition to opponents this coming season.

Mrs. Melville M. Austin, 152 E. Lincoln, has decided she just

WAGGING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

BIRMINGHAM SEEMS TO DO IT BEST. According to the special feature articles in the Detroit Sunday newspapers, Birmingham people are apparently the most profane in the world to designate the best planned houses, or remodeling the old ones. In the past year or so, the Detroit houses have been leveled and special sections devoted to better home management, weedless lawns and other such things. Recalling the areas from which the editors of these sections get their examples of "how-to-do-it," seems almost funny to find out they are from the Birmingham area. It makes us feel good to know that Detroit has to come to Birmingham to show the rest of the metropolitan area how it should be done. Of course, many of these summer replacement radio programs are not supposed to be as good as the regular winter ones. In most instances, they are not. But sometimes an understudy turns out to be as good as or better than the regular one. Some of these days several sponsors are going to wake up to the fact that their summer replacement program should take the place of their regular show. Naturally, there is nothing that can be done about the soap operas—either summer or winter. They are on all the time, just like death and taxes. I wonder if many other men have the same trouble. I do when it comes to recognizing friends' wives who are attired in slacks, slugs and other maculose-looking apparel? In some of the get-up-the women folks are wearing today,

LOOKING AHEAD By George S. Benson

PROBLEMS OF SURVIVAL. It seems clear now that our federal government must make good its military expenditures for an indefinite period. Regardless of the duration of the Korean conflict, it already has demonstrated that neither our present nor our previous planned military strength would be sufficient in an all out showdown with the sprawling Communist war machine. Our government must therefore spend heavily, at least during the next several years, to build up the fighting strength of the armed services. THE NEW SPENDING for actual war, piled on top of the already huge "cold war" outlays and the other staggeringly expensive federal government services which have swarmed in during the past 20 years, creates a whole new series of national problems and dangers. In war time or in any prolonged preparation for war, a danger of our free enterprise economy is itself is the abnormal growth of government in size and power. Power once conferred upon an individual is seldom voluntarily given up. In our government, in particular, it is not so easily relinquished. MANY OF OUR federal government controls, taxes and spending programs, which have been in effect for many years, are in fact measures prior to and during the war still are in force—many of them. Some of these are (for instance, travel and communications taxes). Our free enterprise economy has survived this burden but not without injury; and any new controlling burdensome taxes that might be extended over a long period could very well fatally cripple the economy. Another danger about which our people need to be alerted is the identification of the state cover work of those movements seeking to scrap our capitalist system and to install a Communist system. PROBABLY THE greatest menace created by the 60,000 American Communists and fellow travelers will be in their Fifth Column work of infiltration of our vital industries, otherwise sabotaging war production, and agitating for the overthrow of our government. The menace of the disguised Socialists, or Planned Economy advocates, will not be so easily recognized, and that fact makes their movement the more dangerous. We now know that the British Socialists did their decisive work in England while the wisest and sanest management of the government's fiscal affairs will be brought with constant vigilance by Gen. Omar Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, himself recognized these dangers when he observed there was a limit on what a nation could spend "with out imperiling its economic survival." AND SO TO sum up: The nearer we come to balancing all government budgets, federal, state and local, whatever the cost in temporary sacrifices, the less will be the inflationary pressure upon the money market, and we can be of economic survival. And above all else, each citizen should be alert to the extent to one to expose the disguised Socialists at work and to keep the public eye on the constant value of individual freedom—so we won't lose it at the end of the war emergency like England did.

MICHIGAN MIRROR By Gene Alleman

WILL SOME DEMOCRATS OPPOSE GOV. WILLIAMS? "An Anti-Governor Williams move is afoot in the state, reports the Grand Rapids Press. Basic for the conclusion was an attack by a Detroit attorney, Edgewood of Detroit, president of the Michigan Truman club and Michigan Democratic Party, against the Michigan Democratic Party, as being "Marxist missions." We quote the Press: "Edgewood asserted the ADA has taken over the Democratic machinery in Michigan, Minnesota and Connecticut and that it has 'unduly influenced' the party branch of our state government." "The speaker, former housing director of the Michigan ADA, in Michigan led by Hicks Griffiths, former state chairman of the Michigan Democratic Party, had defeated President Truman in his bid for the Democratic nomination in Michigan. Edgewood left nothing undone to weaken, supersede, circumvent and in effect, to destroy the ADA. The authority of our national committee, George Fitzgerald, Fitzgerald said that the ADA is a party of the 1948 convention." PRAISING PRESIDENT Truman as an "American agent selling an American program," Edgewood likened Lt. Gov. John W. Connally to the president. "One breath of political fresh air you get as you pass through Lansing circles," Edgewood said, "is the honesty and integrity of Connally and Roth (Attorney General Stephen J. Roth). Edgewood has been studiously avoided engagements with intellectual elite, declared Edgewood. "Because of the impossibility of working as Democrats under Griffiths in Michigan, a large group under leadership of our national committee member friend the Truman Democratic club of Michigan," Edgewood said. "It was then that Edgewood made it clear that as long as Governor Williams asserted the ADA, he would be opposed by a segment of Michigan Democrats."

Rapid Progress Reported for Toll Dialing

How the lifeline of the modern telephone system—the relay connections—functions was explained at a recent meeting of the Michigan Bell Telephone Company by Herbert Bumpus, from the Michigan Bell public relations department. This up-to-date method of switching calls to me is the most efficient and most reliable system," Bumpus declared. "The backbone of our business." Edgewood said that the ADA is a party of the 1948 convention. "It was then that Edgewood made it clear that as long as Governor Williams asserted the ADA, he would be opposed by a segment of Michigan Democrats." "The WAYNE COUNTY auditor declared, 'We as Democrats are not interested in elected Democrats must also unload our fifth column. The only way we can do this consistently is with the demand that any candidate running under the Democratic banner must take a public position of renunciation or affiliation, indorsement or association with the party.'" "Failing to do this, we must consider these candidates regarded as traitors to the party. We are factoring company are presenting research drive to unlock the secret of what holds matter together. The answer, they say, could be "a hundredfold more significant than the atomic bomb itself."

I Am Mundane By BEATRICE McDONALD

I would come back to this dear earth again, Back to its blossoming, its fragrant rain, Its love and hatred, happiness and pain; Back to my angel-ones, my enemies; Back to the heights and depths, to toil and ease, Fair skies or thunderous... for all of these. Are life and life is beautiful and dear. I would return to this loved earthly sphere Some distant time beyond the now and here.